

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: ♦ Cattle ♦ Sheep ♦ Cattle on Feed ♦ Dairy Products ♦ Slaughter

KENTUCKY CATTLE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

Cattle numbers in **Kentucky** continued to grow during 2002. Total Cattle and Calves on Kentucky farms January 1, 2003 numbered 2.43 million head, up 6 percent from last year. Milk cows and cattle on feed showed declines from January 1, 2002, while all other inventory levels were up.

All Cow inventory for 2003 totaled 1.24 million head up from 1.20 million in 2002. Beef cow inventory was up 4 percent from last year to 1.12 million head. Milk cows were down another 4 percent to a record low of 120,000 head. Bulls over 500 pounds totaled 80,000 head, up 7 percent from 2002.

Heifers over 500 pounds inventory was set at 350,000 head, up 13 percent from a year ago. Beef replacement heifers were also up from the previous year totaling 175,000 head, a 3 percent increase. Milk replacement heifers rose to 45,000 head, heifers for other uses also increased to 130,000 head. Steers over 500 pounds totaled 220,000, 2 percent above the previous year. Calves under 500 pounds increased 8 percent to 540,000 head.

The 2002 calf crop was estimated at 1.11 million head, 3 percent above the 2001 level. Cattle on feed for slaughter totaled 10,000 head, down from 15,000 head on January 1, 2002.

U.S. class estimates on January 1, 2003 and the change from January 1, 2002, are as follows:

- - **All cattle and calves**, 96.1 million, down 1 percent.
- - **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 42.1 million, down slightly.
- - **Beef cows**, 32.95 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Milk cows**, 9.15 million, up slightly.
- - **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly.
- - **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.61 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.10 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Other heifers**, 9.89 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly.
- - **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.6 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7 percent.

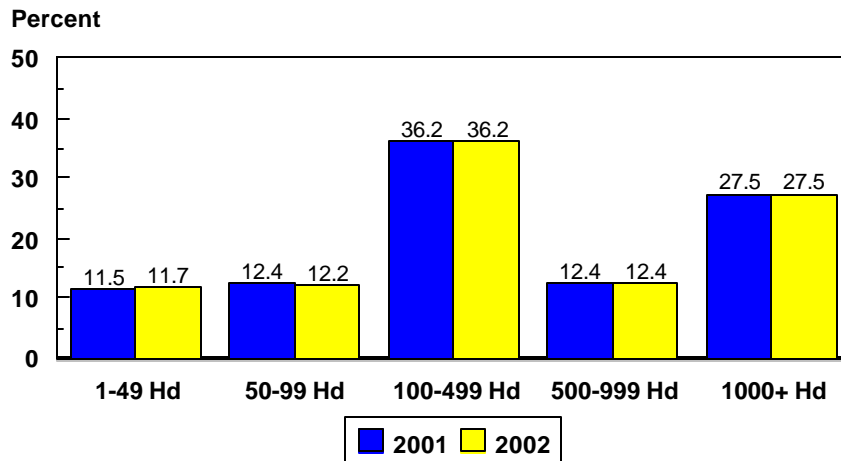
CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS, CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP

JANUARY 1, 2002 - 2003

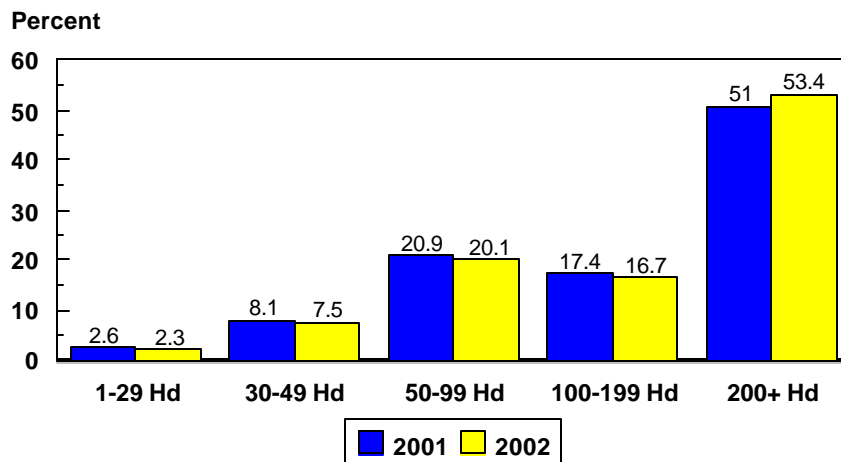
CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2002	2003	03 % of 02	2002 <u>1</u> /	2003	03 % of 02
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,300	2,430	106	96,704	96,106	99
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,200	1,240	103	42,229	42,099	100
Beef Cows	1,075	1,120	104	33,118	32,947	99
Milk Cows	125	120	96	9,112	9,152	100
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	310	350	113	19,678	19,601	100
Beef Cow Replacement	170	175	103	5,561	5,608	101
Milk Cow Replacement	40	45	113	4,060	4,104	101
Other Heifers	100	130	130	10,057	9,890	98
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	215	220	102	16,790	16,590	99
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	75	80	107	2,244	2,253	100
Calves Under 500 Lbs	500	540	108	15,763	15,563	99
Cattle on Feed <u>2</u> /	15	10	67	13,860	12,916	93
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,080	1,110	103	38,280	38,193	100

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY Percent by Size Group, 2001-2002



U.S. MILK COW INVENTORY Percent by Size Group, 2001-2002



KENTUCKY SHEEP INVENTORY INCREASES

Kentucky's sheep and lamb inventory totaled 22,000 head on January 1, 2003, up 1 percent from January 1, 2002. There were 14,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, up 1 percent from the previous year. Replacement lambs for breeding, at 2,500 head, unchanged from the previous year. Lamb crop for 2002 totaled 16,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2001. Market sheep and lambs totaled 4,500 head, unchanged from the previous year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million

head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on January 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below January 1, 2002 and 10 percent below January 1, 2001. The inventory included 6.53 million steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.98 million head, down 9 percent from January 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.59 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 6 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.49 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 421,000, 600-699 pounds were 507,000, 700-799 pounds were 407,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 255,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2001 but 3 percent above 2000.

Other disappearance totaled 99,000 during December, 6 percent above 2001 and 4 percent above 2000.

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES ^{1/}

Cattle on feed January 1, 2003, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.1 million, down 8 percent from the previous year and 9 percent below January 1, 2001. The inventory included 5.61 million steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.47 million head, down 8 percent from January 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.38 million, 4 percent above 2001 but 4 percent below 2000.

Marketings during December totaled 1.57 million, 1 percent above 2001 and 4 percent above 2000.

Other disappearance during December was 85,000 head, up 9 percent from 2001 and 10 percent above 2000.

^{1/}AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, DECEMBER 2002

PRODUCT	December 2001	November 2002 ^{1/}	December 2002	Percent of Dec. 2001	Nov. 2002
	(000) Pounds			Percent	
BUTTER	123,025	104,221	126,987	103	122
CHEESE					
American Types ^{2/}	312,229	291,765	312,077	100	107
Mozzarella	230,443	232,030	244,162	106	105
All Other Types ^{3/}	160,418	189,093	175,283	109	93
Total	703,090	712,888	731,522	104	103
	(000) Gallons			Percent	
FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream (Hard)	54,548	59,152	58,314	107	99
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,597	5,530	5,105	111	92
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	32,576	37,530	38,455	118	102
Yogurt Mix	2,511	3,253	3,003	120	92

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. ^{3/} Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in December 2001. December 2001 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, down slightly from December 2001. The average live weight was 1,265 pounds, up 9 pounds from December a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 3 percent above December 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from December a year ago.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	December 2001	November 2002	December 2002	December 02 % of	
				December 2001	November 2002
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,110	2,164	2,107	100	97
Veal	15.7	16.9	18.0	115	107
Pork	1,668	1,709	1,715	103	100
Lamb & Mutton	19.2	17.8	18.5	97	104
Total U.S.	3,814	3,907	3,859	101	99
Total Kentucky	40.1	41.8	39.8	99	95

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 2001 & 2002 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.6	1.8	1,324	1,518	844	863
Hogs	198.3	196.0	52,675	52,240	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	0.9	130	110	152	122
United States						
Cattle	2,779.3	2,772.0	3,489,696	3,506,477	1,256	1,265
Hogs	8,419.1	8,658.4	2,255,194	2,316,548	268	268
Sheep & Lambs	279.6	278.5	38,643	37,117	138	133

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>